Rec Oct 18
Ans Oct 25

Royal Herbarium
Kew Oct 1. 1870

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

Cactus Cum Pl. Indicus

Prof Asa Gray at Kew

My dear Dr Engelmann

I feel exceedingly obliged for your kind letter & valuable notes on Juncea. They came to me whilst I was rusticating in the North of England nearly a month ago and I delayed to answer them till I got back to London again. Dr Hooker & Dr Parry told me, which they did one by word of mouth & the other by a note in Gardeners Chronicle within a day or two of one another that you had been working at the genus for many years I felt half like an intruder but however by that time the thing was done and I had committed myself to print. The state of the case is just as follows, I dare say you know Mr Wilson Saunders, who for many years has been Treasurer & Vice President of the

Linnean Society. He is one of our wealthy London merchants, & has a very fine place at Reigate with a wonderful collection of rare & interesting plants, especially of such things as other people pass over. To illustrate these he established the Repertum Botanicum, intending to publish a volume yearly with 72 plates, I undertook to edit this for him except for Orchids which N E Reichenbach had undertaken. We have already monographed Sedum & Echeveria and Scilla & Scilebourea of which he had made special collections: and he has for many years spared neither pains or expense to get together as many forms of species as possible & wished that to the illustration of these a number should be devoted, what we were intending to do was to figure as many of the forms as we could make drawings of in flower, describing the others all at once and

beginning them from hise to time, as they came out in the miscellaneous part of the volumes, but it was not in the way I he originally intended, I should take up part of this volume but here in England they have flowered so badly this summer that we have now fixed to put it off another year. The Patersonia in the G. C will give me a notion of the forms we have. (I see I shall have quite forgot to send me any separate copies) I really then have never flowered it as for the fact it is never produced on our gardens at all, that I white I am fully convinced that Jones is the correct botanical classification of the forms yet for our gardens here I do not see any alternative but relying mainly on the leaves, of the uncertain character derived from the leaf-edges we have a fond

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Illustration in Cannabis sativa

Portions which I distinctly refer to
at first, although in Burnet & others
is sometimes the case. I have not
unfrequently observed Hemp & Stinging Nettle
Urtica dioica in such close proximity
their roots are quite
lost in the mature state. I do not
know I shall ever be able to give
any more a sketch of the diversities
air illustration of the hunted species,
however, I shall have
an opportunity to do so hereafter.
I have your manuscript. Into numer-
ous instances the presence of every
order here that the only safe course
is to step to the side that no name
has any botanical standing unless
the plants, otherwise at all, has been
characterized in the hundred dispersis.
I will be now only other hand
can practically be carried out

Yours very truly
J G Baker

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Missouri Botanical Garden

Rec Nov 19 1872

B

New Oct. 21 1871

Dear Dr Engelmann

Very many thanks for your extract just received on Hesperaloe &c. Will you send word when you next write how it is to be cited? No title appears, only "Appendix". I have done my best to make you up a set of specimens of the Yuccas in cultivation in England. They are nearly ready, one only, a wretch to dry, being in press yet. I will most likely forward them through the Smithsonian but will see what plan seems most eligible. We are going to figure in the next Botanical Magazine those of which we have drawings both in

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leaf & flower but not to attempt a general synopsis just yet. I will send a copy when it is out but it takes such a long time to get a part through

Yours very truly
J. G. Baker

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Dr Engelmann

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Rec^d Nov 19th 74
Ans Dec 26

Wrote Dec 15

Baker

New herbarium
Nov 5 1873

Dear Dr Engelmann,

I have just received the copy sent by post of your Yucca monograph and am very much obliged for the same, It will put the genus upon an entirely different footing, now that you have so carefully studied out the fruit characters & found that there are there really differential characters.

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But I am very sorry to tell
you that Yucca Shedy on
this side of the water is
altogether under a cloud at present
and that recent events
have very much spoiled
our hopes of advancing; for
Mr Welsan Saunders, who
had by far the finest living
collection and spared no
pains or expense to take
care of it and improve it
has failed in business and
became bankrupt and
his collection has been

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broken up and dispersed,
I can scarcely hope that
such a good set will ever
be got together again & it
is a great blow to scientific
horticulture here as he
bought and took care of all
the interesting plants which
were not marketable with
the nurserymen, He was
a shipping insurer & has
been ruined by a set of
accidents without any con-
nection with one another
happening to one ship after
another for which he was
liable.

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You have been misinformed about Y. Treculeana, Carriere. In the paper cited, written in 1858, there is a full description both of Treculeana & Filescens. I should like to send copies to the Revd H. Ellacombe of Bitton near Bath & Mr Jas Moore of the Chelsea Botanic Garden & to Mr Adair, a barrister in Dublin. They are the principal men who are cultivating Yuccas in England at present,

Yours very truly

J. G. Baker

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